OUTDOOR NATURAL LIGHT

When you first begin to point your camera at people- taking their photograph, while utilizing outdoor natural lighting, is one of the easiest ways to get started.

View From My Lens

Perfect to print A5 size
14cm x 21cm / 5.83" x 8.27"

SETTING UP THE CAMERA



CHOOSE THE RIGHT LENS

Use a longer focal length lens, and try to fill the frame with your subject. Stay away from ultra wide-angle lenses, as they can distort the edges of the frame, and this will be noticeable when shooting groups of people.

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SHOOT IN MANUAL OR APERTURE PRIORITY MODE

When shooting portraits, one of the key elements is to take control of the depth of field. Taking photos outdoors means that there can be distracting elements in the background; blur the background by using a wider aperture.



IDEAL TIME

The best outdoor natural light occurs from 30 minutes before sunset until 45 minutes after. Sunrise has a short window of opportunity- about 20 min. max.

TAKE THE SHOT

GROUP



APERTURE

Set the aperture to between f/5.6 - f/11. These f/stops give you enough depth of field to keep the subjects sharp, while letting the background blur.

POSITION

If possible place the group into the shade, or put the Sun at their backs and use a fill-in flash.

POSING

Study the example. Position the group so that the head heights vary. Group interaction is always pleasing. Position the subjects, so that they are not looking off frame. Another alternative is to have everyone looking at the camera.

INDIVIDUAL



APERTURE

Get close. Use a large aperture to keep the background blurred. Set your critical focus onto the eye closest to the camera.

POSITION

Place your subject into the shade, or with the Sun behind them, and use a reflector or a fill-in flash.

POSING

Headshots, stay close. Always keep an eye on the neck for squished skin. Keep the chin slightly up. Half body shots, watch for slumping shoulders. Full body shots, look for tense hands or stiff legs. Keep your subject relaxed.